

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/643,748

Confirmation No.: 4133

Filed: 19 August 2003

For: DENTAL ARTICLE FORMS AND METHODS

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:
- selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the organic composition gives the self-supporting structure its self-supporting and malleable characteristics, and further wherein the organic composition is dimensionally stable and comprises a surfactant system mixed therein;
 - filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;
 - placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;
 - at least partially hardening the hardenable material to form the dental article;
 - optionally customizing the dental article outside of the subject's mouth;
 - cementing the dental article to the subject's tooth structure; and
 - removing the dental article form from the article;
- wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth ~~before or~~ after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

40-41. (Cancelled)

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42. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 39 wherein the organic composition is curable.
43. **(Original)** The method of claim 42 wherein the curable organic composition comprises an initiator system and a resin system comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated component.
44. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 39 wherein the organic composition is noncurable.
45. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:
- selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the organic composition gives the self-supporting structure its self-supporting and malleable characteristics;
 - filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;
 - placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;
 - at least partially hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article;
 - optionally customizing the dental article outside of the subject's mouth;
 - cementing the dental article to the subject's tooth structure; and
 - removing the dental article form from the dental article;
- wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth ~~before or after~~ filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

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46. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form is removed after the dental article is cemented to the subject's tooth structure.
47. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form comprises an organic composition comprising a surfactant system mixed therein.
48. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the organic composition comprises a filler system.
49. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the organic composition is free of added filler.
50. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the organic composition is curable or noncurable.
51. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 50 wherein the organic composition is curable.
52. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 51 wherein the curable organic composition comprises an initiator system and a resin system comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated component.
53. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 50 wherein the organic composition is noncurable.
54. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 53 wherein the noncurable organic composition comprises a noncurable polymer selected from the group consisting of a

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polycaprolactone, a polyvinylacetate, and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a polyethylene glycol, a wax, and mixtures thereof.

55. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form is a form for a dental article selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.
56. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form is in packaging.
57. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form comprises one or more of the following features: a handle attached to the dental article form at a location removed from the base of the dental article form; a vented handle through which excess amounts of hardenable dental material can pass during placement of the dental article form; and one or more lines of weakness that may be separated.
58. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:
- selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the organic composition gives the self-supporting structure its self-supporting and malleable characteristics;
 - filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;
 - placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;
 - hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article and cement it to the subject's tooth structure; and

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removing the dental article form from the dental article;

wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth ~~before or after~~ filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

59. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 58 wherein the dental article form comprises an organic composition comprising a surfactant system mixed therein.
60. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 58 wherein the organic composition is curable or noncurable.
61. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 wherein the organic composition is curable.
62. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 61 wherein the curable organic composition comprises an initiator system and a resin system comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated component.
63. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 wherein the organic composition is noncurable.
64. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 63 wherein the noncurable organic composition comprises a noncurable polymer selected from the group consisting of a polycaprolactone, a polyvinylacetate, and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a polyethylene glycol, a wax, and mixtures thereof.
65. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:

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selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the dental article form does not include slots;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;

placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;

at least partially hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article;

optionally customizing the dental article outside of the subject's mouth;

cementing the dental article to the subject's tooth structure; and

removing the dental article form from the dental article;

wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth ~~before or~~ after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

66. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:

selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the dental article form does not include slots;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;

placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;

hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article and cement it to the subject's tooth structure; and

removing the dental article form from the dental article;

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wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth ~~before or~~ after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

67. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the dental article formed, upon removal of the dental article form, is selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.
68. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article formed, upon removal of the dental article form, is selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.
69. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the dental article formed, upon removal of the dental article form, is selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.
70. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein the dental article formed, upon removal of the dental article form, is selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.
71. (New) The method of claim 66 wherein the dental article formed, upon removal of the dental article form, is selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.